

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /084 W

----- 126000

P R 281801Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7701

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BURSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: LABOR WRAP-UP

1. THE MUCH PREDICTED "HOT AUTUMN" IN LABOR IS STILL NOT WITH US. SPORADIC STRIKES AND OPPOSITION LABOR CALLS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS TO PROTEST AGAINST THE GOVT'S ECONOMIC MEASURES HAVE SERVED TO KEEP THE TEMPERATURE WARM.

2. IN THE BASQUE REGION, AN ESTIMATED 30,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS REMAIN ON STRIKE. IN MADRID, A HASTILY CALLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILDCAT STRIKE OF AN ESTIMATED 6,000 MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT

WORKERS ON OCT. 28, TIED UP 1500 BUSES AND AFFECTED SOME ONE MILLION RIDERS. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES PUT 475 PRIVATE BUSES ON THE ROAD WHICH REPORTEDLY PROVIDED EMERGENCY SERVICE ON ONE THIRD OF MADRID'S BUS NETWORK.

3. ALTHOUGH PLANS HAD BEEN MADE TO HAVE SOLDIERS MAN THE EMERGENCY BUSES, MANY WERE INSTEAD DRIVEN BY DRIVERS FROM THE OFFICIAL CAR POOLS OF THE GOVT MINISTRIES, CIVIL GUARD, AND POLICE. A STREET CLASH BETWEEN RIOT POLICE AND MORE THAN 1000 STRIKING TRANSPORT WORKERS RESULTED IN INJURIES TO SIX POLICE AND FIVE STRIKERS (ONE OF WHOM LOST AN EYE WHEN HIT BY A RUBBER BULLET), ACCORDING TO THE CIVIL GOVERNOR OF MADRID. IN ADDITION TO WAGE DEMANDS, LABOR SORUCES TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE DETERMINING FACTOR BEHIND THE STRIKE WAS MANAGEMENT'S UNWILLINGNESS TO RECOGNIZE THEIR "FREELY ELECTED" NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE AS A VALID AND REPRESENTATIVE BARGAINING AGENT. THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS (SWC) AND THE SOCIALIST UGT ARE THE MAIN TRADE UNION FORCES AMONG THE BUS DRIVERS. A WILDCAT SUBWAY STRIKE IS RUMORED FOR TOMORROW

4. IN AN APPARENT MOVE TO TRY TO BUILD UP STEAM FOR THE "DAY OF STOPPAGES" ON NOVEMBER 12 (MADRID 7910), THE COS (COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES SINDICALS - THE NATIONAL "UNITY OF ACTION" MECHANISM GROUPING THE "BIG THREE" -UGT, SWC, AND USO) ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD A "PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION" ON NOV. 5. ON OCT. 27, THE CIVIL GOVERNOR OF MADRID DENIED THE REQUEST, NOTING THAT THE COS HAD NO "LEGAL IDENTITY".

5. FINALLY, ON THE LABOR REFORM FRONT (MADRID 7949), HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOLD A VISITING DGB DELEGATION (MADRID 8119) ON OCTOBER 25 THAT THE LABOR REFORM BILL LEGALIZING TRADE UNIONS WOULD BE PASSED BY THE CORTES WITHIN TWENTY DAYS. OUR INDICATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN SO PRECISE, WITH SOME THINKING THAT WHILE THE LABOR REFORM MIGHT BE DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE SOON, THE EFFORT TO PASS THE CORTES WOULD WAIT UPON THE PASSAGE OF THE POLITICAL REFORM BILL. IN THE MEANTIME, THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF OCT. 27 PUBLISHED A DECREE LAW ON THE CREATION, ORGANIZATION, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTONOMOUS "INSTITUTIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES" WHICH IS TO TAKE OVER THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE OFFICIAL SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO). SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA MATA HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVT WOULD BE SENDING A LEGISLATIVE BILL TO THE CORTES CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE BODY COMPOSED OF LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT), AS A VEHICLE FOR MAINTAINING LABOR-MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE WHEN THE OLD SSO STRUCTURE DISSOLVES.

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